

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-10

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S E C R E T STATE 257163

TOSEC 243

FOLLOWING SENT WHITE HOUSE FOR SAM 86970 KYOTO FROM SECSTATE
WASHDC 21 NOV 74:

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 257163

WHITE HOUSE PASS SAM 86970 FOR BREMER TOSEC 243

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 14027 SENT SECSTATE DATED NOV 21.

QUOTE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 14027

EYES ONLY FOR UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS SISCO

PASS FLASH TO SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR LE US

SUBJECT: FRANGIE PIQUE

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1. TELEVISION LAST NIGHT AND PRESS TODAY CONTINUE TO HAVE A FIELD DAY WITH FRANGIE'S TREATMENT IN NEW YORK AND PRESIDENT'S PIQUE THEREFROM. MOST SPECULATION CENTERS ON WHETHER I WILL ATTEND PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION FOR DIPLO-MATIC CORPS TOMORROW NOVEMBER 22 WHICH IS LEBANESE INDEPENDENCE DAY.

2. UP TO NOW, PRESS AND PUBLIC ATTENTION HAS BEEN FOCUSING ON PROTOCOL ASPECTS OF PRESIDENT FRANGIE'S VISIT TO NEW YORK, THE FACT THAT HE WAS NOT RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT FORD, AND TAQLA'S NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE THE SECRETARY. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, RELIABLE INFORMATION THAT THE FACT DOGS SNIFFED PRESIDENTIAL BAGGAGE FOR HASHISH IS NOW LEAKING, AND TWO RESPONSIBLE AND CONCERNED LEBANESE OFFICIALS ANTICIPATE THAT IT WILL APPEAR IN PRESS WITHIN 24-48 HOURS.

3. PRESIDENT'S INTRINSIGENCE CONTINUES AND HE IS, LET'S FACE IT, NEARLY IRRATIONAL ON THE SUBJECT. MEN WHO ATTENDED YESTERDAY'S CABINET MEETING SAID HE NEARLY LOST CONTROL OF HIMSELF WHILE SPEAKING SOLELY OF PROTOCOL ASPECTS OF HIS NY RECEPTION.

4. PROBLEM IS OBVIOUSLY HOW TO DEFUSE SITUATION AND STOP PRESS/TV SPECULATION FROM SPIRALING. QUESTION TODAY TOOK ON ANOTHER ASPECT--I.E., WITH PRESS ALLEGING THAT TENSION IN US/LEBANESE RELATIONS ALSO BORE ON OUR "FAILURE" TO RESTRAIN ISRAELI ACTIONS ON SOUTHERN BORDER.

5. SOMETHING SLIGHTLY DRAMATIC MUST BE DONE TO SAVE PRESIDENT FRANGIE'S FACE, WHICH IS TOTALLY ENGAGED AT THIS TIME. WE SHOULD ALSO DO SOMETHING TO ABATE PRESS FUROR AND GIVE THE MANY WELL DISPOSED ELEMENTS IN THE LEBANON A CHANCE TO QUIET THINGS DOWN. ONE THING I CAN RECOMMEND STRONGLY IS THAT I BE AUTHORIZED TO RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES BEFORE PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION TOMORROW, OR ABOUT THE SAME TIME, ON CONSULTATION. EMDASSY WOULD INDICATE TOMORROW MORNING LOCAL THAT I WAS LEAVING BEIRUT TOMORROW MORNING FOR WASHINGTON
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"TO EXCHANGE IDEAS DIRECTLY WITH RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES RE THE RECENT VISIT OF PRESIDENT FRANGIE TO THE UN IN NEW YORK." IF FOREGOING MAKES SENSE, I WOULD ALSO HAVE TO OBTAIN A QUASI-GUARANTEE FROM FRANGIE THAT HE WOULD RECEIVE ME UPON MY RETURN, AT WHICH TIME I COULD MAKE FURTHER APOLOGIES AND CONCILIATORY REMARKS. HIS FACE WOULD BE SAVED, AND HOPEFULLY HE WOULD BE WILLING TO LAY THE MATTER TO REST.

6. MY OWN CONVICTION IS THAT TODAY INFORMED RESPONSIBLE LEBANESE, INCLUDING PRESIDENT'S IMMEDIATE ADVISORS, EXCEPT RPT EXCEPT FRANGIE REALIZE THE UNTENABLE POSITION HE HAS GOTTEN HIMSELF INTO. FOR THE LIFE OF ME, I CAN THINK OF NO RPT NO OTHER ACTION THAT CAN BE TAKEN TO STOP SPIRALING STIUATION WHICH BENEFITS ONLY OUR MUTUAL ADVERSARIES IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD.

7. I AM FULLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE FACT THAT FOREGOING WOULD CAUSE SOME STIR IN THE LEBANON AND POSSIBLY EVEN IN U.S. PRESS CIRCLES.

I AM CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS STIR WOULD BE MUCH LESS THAN THAT WHICH I CURRENTLY ENVISAGE WILL INEVITABLY HAPPEN UNLESS WE TAKE SOME ACTION. GODLEY UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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